

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 04909 250439 Z

12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

DPW-01 IO-12 EUR-25 AID-20 RSR-01 /138 W

----- 015506

R 250245 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9162

INFO USDEL FRANCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4909

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: DAILY MR 3 SITREP MAR 24, 1973

FOL SENT SAIGON ACTION FROM BIEN HOA AND RPTF TO YOU FOR INFO QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 0034

SUBJECT: DAILY MR 3 SITREP-24 MAR 1973

1. FIGHTING HAS INTENSIFIED ALONG LTL 2 AT THE PHUOC TUY- LONG KHANH BORDER. WHERE AN ESTIMATED 2 COMMUNIST BATTALIONS HAVE CUT THE HIGHWAY. III CORPS CG LTG MINH HAS SENT HIS TROUBLESHOOTER, BG AN, TO THE SCENT TO DIRECT OPERATIONS WHICH, IN THE LAST 2 DAYS, HAVE INCLUDED 22 VNAF AIRSTRIKES. THE RVN HAS FAILED A COMPLAINT WITH THE FPJMC AND THE ICCS TEAM IN XUAN LOC, BUT THE LATTER GROUP IS UNLIKELY TO TAKE ANY ACTION SO LONG AS THE POLES HOLD THE CHAIR. CANDEL SOURCES SAY THEY WILL INVESTIGATE AS SOON AS THEY TAKE THE CHAIR MARCH 26.

2. IT APPEARS THAT, WHOEVER HAS THE CHAIR, THE CANDEL RETAINS DEFACTO RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATIONS, LOGISTICS, AND MOST MATTERS FOR EACH REGION V CONTROL TEAM. WHEN POLISH COL. MORAWSKI TOOK THE CHAIR OF THE REGION V TEAM (BIEN HOA) MARCH 19, HE THANKED HIS ONDONESIAN PREDECESSOR FOR HIS SERVICE, THEN ASKED CANDEL FOR A REPORT ON WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED DURING THE PRECEDING

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 04909 250439 Z

WEEK.

3. SIGNIFICANT HOSTILE ACTIVITY CONTINUED DURING THE LAST 24 HOURS. A TOTAL OF 24 INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED BY ARVN III CORPS, 5 GROUND CONTACTS AND 19 ATTACKS BY FIRE. TONLE CHAM ASE CAMP (TAY NINH) WAS STILL THE FOCAL POINT OF MILITARY ACTION. THE CAMP'S SITUATION IS NOW HIGHLY CRITICAL AND IT IS IN IMMINENT DANGER OF FALLING. YESTERDAY THE CAMP RECEIVED NEARLY 400 ROUNDS OF MIXED MORTAR IN FIVE SEPARATE ABFS AND ONE GROUND PROBLE IN WHICH B-40 AND M-79 GRENADE ROUNDS AND HEAVY SMALL ARMS DIRECT FIRE WERE EMPLOYED. THE SUPPLY SITUATION IS CRITICAL AND THE NUMBER OF EFFECTIVE TROOPS IS DOWN TO ABOUT 200 RANGERS. A RELIEF OPERATION WOULD HAVE TO CONSIST OF A T LEAST A REGIMENT, PROBABLY TWO REGIMENTS, AND COULD ONLY BE LAUNCHED FROM AN LOC. THIS WOULD ENTAIL MAJOR GROUND FIGHTING AND WOULD PLACE THE CEASE- FIRE IN SERIOUS JEOPARDY IN MR III.

4. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT LTG MINH MAY BE CONTEMPLATING JUST SUCH AN OPERATION AND THAT HE HAS NO INTENTION OF LETTING TONLE CHAM BE OVERRUN. THE REPORTED ARRIVAL IN MR III OF VC/ NVA UNITS FROM MR IV AND CAMBODIA, IF TRUE, COULD PRESAGE NEW MAJOR BATTLES FROM TAY NINH TO AN LOC AND DOWN THE SAIGON RIVER CORRIDOR.

5. ELSEWHERE IN MR III THERE WAS A SHARP GROUND ENGAGEMENT IN THE VICINITY OF THU THUA CITY (LONG AN) WHERE THE 37 TH RG GROUP WAS ATTACKED BY AN UNKNOWN SIZE HOSTILE FORCE. THERE WERE 3 FRIENDLY WOUNDED AND 10 VC/ NVA KILLED. REGIONAL FORCES ALSO RECEIVED 3 HOI CHANHS YESTERDAYS, TWO AT TAN UYEN (BIEN HOA) AND ANOTHER NEAR XUAN LOC (LONG KHANH). THE 2 AT TAN UYEN ARE A VC HUSBAND AND WIFE CULTURE/ DRAMA TEAM, REPUTED TO BE COSVN' S ANSWER TO STEVE LAWRENCE AND EDYE GORME. DAILY CASUALTY FIGURES WERE GIVEN AS 10 VC KILLED, 5 FRIENDLY KILLED AND 32 WOUNDED. THERE WERE NO VIETNAMESE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES REPORTED. WALKINSHAW UQNUOTE BUNKER

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON04909
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730338/aaaaihvr.tel
Line Count: 103
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971230
Subject: DAILY MR 3 SITREP MAR 24, 1973
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT
To: EA
FRANCE
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005